

VZCZCXRO0965
PP RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ
DE RUEHTH #1127 1221444
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 021444Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5302
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY 2519

UNCLAS ATHENS 001127

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STATE FOR JOHN FIELD OES

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EFIS](#) [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [GR](#)
SUBJECT: GREECE TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION
(IWC)

REF: STATE 30949

11. (SBU) On April 28th, Ambassador received a call from Kostas Chalastanis, advisor to the Greek FM, who informed him that Greece would be joining the IWC. Chalastanis further indicated that the decision regarding membership would have to pass Greek Parliament prior to ratification; he did not provide a timetable for the action.

12. (SBU) Comment: Post will continue to monitor the GoG IWC membership status in the coming weeks and will ensure that the designated representative(s) are informed of the USG position regarding International Whaling. The ability of the GoG to have a voting member at the IWC June meeting is doubtful, given the parliamentary approval required by Greek law. End Comment.
Ries